

REMARKSRejection of the claims under 35 USC §112:

Claims 24-28 are rejected under §112 for containing new matter.

Applicants have canceled the claims in this response.

Rejection of the claims under 35 USC §102:

Claims 7-11 and 19-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pierce catalog as evidenced by Arpicco et al.

Claims 7 and 11 have been amended to obviate the rejection. The amendment recites that "wherein the at least one electron withdrawing group is different from the at least two reactive groups." Support for the amendment may be found in the specification on page 5 and 7 as shown in the structures and descriptions.

The Pierce catalog describes a compound that contains a disulfide bond with electron withdrawing groups that are the reactive groups as well. Applicants now claim a compound where the electron withdrawing groups cannot be the reactive groups. Therefore, Applicants believe that the amendment obviates the rejection.

Double Patenting

Claims 7-11 and 19-28 are rejected for double patenting over the claims of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/795,607 which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,936,729.

The cited patent is a divisional of this Application and as such has the same filing date and references the same provisional application No. 60/085,764 filed on May 16, 1998. Since the dates are identical, a terminal disclaimer is not required and an improper extension of time cannot occur.

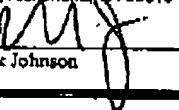
Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider this rejection.

The Examiner's rejections are now believed to be overcome by this response to the Office Action. In view of Applicants' amendment and arguments, it is submitted that claims 7-11 and 19-23 should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date: April 20, 2006.


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